

records located at Regional and field Inspector General Offices, as well as records located at the Headquarters Office of the Inspector General.

§ 1206.505 Delegation of authority.

Authority necessary to carry out the responsibilities specified in this subpart is delegated from the Administrator to the officials named in this subpart.

Subpart 6—Procedures

§ 1206.600 Requests for records.

A member of the public may request an Agency record by mail, facsimile (FAX), electronic-mail (e-mail), or in person from the FOIA Office having cognizance over the record requested or from the NASA Headquarters FOIA Office.

§ 1206.601 Mail, fax and e-mail requests.

In view of the time limits under 5 U.S.C. 552(a)(6) for an initial determination on a request for an Agency record (see § 1206.603), a request must meet the following requirements:

(a) The request must be addressed to an appropriate NASA FOIA Office or otherwise be clearly identified in the letter as a request for an Agency record under the “Freedom of Information Act.”

(b) The request must identify the record requested or reasonably describe it in a manner that enables a professional NASA employee who is familiar with the subject area of the request to identify and locate the record with a reasonable amount of effort. NASA need not comply with a blanket or categorical request (such as “all matters relating to” a general subject) where it is not reasonably feasible to determine what is sought. NASA will in good faith endeavor to identify and locate the record sought and will consult with the requester when necessary and appropriate for that purpose. However, as provided in § 1206.203, NASA will undertake no obligation to compile or create information or records not already in existence at the time of the request.

(c) If a fee is chargeable under Subpart 7 of this part for search or duplication costs incurred in connection with

a request for an Agency record, and the requester knows the amount of the fee at the time of the request, the request should be accompanied by a check or money order payable in that amount to the “National Aeronautics and Space Administration.” NASA cannot be responsible for cash sent by mail; stamps will not be accepted. If the amount of the fee chargeable is not known at the time of the request, the requester will be notified in the initial determination (or in a final determination in the case of an appeal) of the amount of the fee chargeable (see § 1206.608(c)). For circumstances in which advance payment of fees is required, see § 1206.704.

§ 1206.602 Requests in person.

(a) A member of the public may request an Agency record in person at a NASA FOIA Office (see § 1206.401) during the duty hours of NASA Headquarters or the Center.

(b) A request at a FOIA Office must identify the record requested or reasonably describe it as provided in § 1206.601(b).

(c) If the record requested is located at the FOIA Office or otherwise readily obtainable, it shall be made available to the requester upon the payment of any fees that are chargeable (see Subpart 7 of this part), which fees may be paid by a check or money order payable to the “National Aeronautics and Space Administration”. If the record requested is not located at the FOIA Office or otherwise readily obtainable, the request will be docketed at the FOIA Office and processed in accordance with the procedures in § 1206.603 and § 1206.604, with any fee chargeable being handled in accordance with § 1206.601(c).

§ 1206.603 Procedures and time limits for initial determinations.

(a) Except as provided in § 1206.608, an initial determination on a request for an Agency record, addressed in accordance with § 1206.601(a) or made in person at a NASA FOIA Office shall be made, and the requester shall be sent notification thereof, within 20 working days after receipt of the request, as required by 5 U.S.C. 552(a)(6).

(b) An initial determination on a request for an Agency record by mail not

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addressed in accordance with § 1206.601(a) shall be made, and the requester shall be sent notification thereof, within 20 working days after the correspondence is recognized as a request for an Agency record under the “Freedom of Information Act” and received by the appropriate NASA FOIA Office. With respect to such a request, unless an initial determination can reasonably be made within 20 working days of the original receipt, the request will be promptly acknowledged and the requester notified of the date the request was received at that FOIA Office and that an initial determination on the request will be made within 20 working days of that date.

(c) If it is determined that the requested record (or portion thereof) will be made available, and if the charges are under \$250, NASA will either send a copy of the releasable record and a bill for the fee or send the initial determination and a bill for the fee to the requester. In the latter case, the documents will be released when the fee is received. If the fee chargeable is over \$250, a request for payment of the fee will always be sent with the initial determination, and the records will be mailed only upon receipt of payment. When records are sent before payment is received, the fact that interest will be charged from the 31st day after the day of the response shall be stated in the response. The date of the mailing of an initial determination, with or without the records(s), shall be deemed to satisfy the time limit for initial determinations.

(d) Any notification of an initial determination that does not comply fully with the request for an Agency record, including those searches that produce no documents, shall include a statement of the reasons for the adverse determination, include the name and title of the person making the initial determination, and notify the requester of the right to appeal to the Administrator, or the Inspector General, as appropriate, under § 1206.605.

(e) If the requester demonstrates a “compelling need” as defined in § 1206.101(r) for records, NASA shall provide expedited processing of the request. NASA will inform the requester as to whether the request for expedited

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processing has been granted within 10 working days after the date of the request.

§ 1206.604 Request for records that exist elsewhere.

(a) If a request for an Agency record is received by a FOIA Office not having cognizance of the record (for example, when a request is submitted to one NASA Center or Headquarters and the requested record exists only at another NASA Center), the FOIA Office receiving the request shall promptly forward it to the NASA FOIA Office having cognizance of the record requested. That Center shall acknowledge the request and inform the requester that an initial determination on the request will be sent within 20 working days from the date of receipt by such Center.

(b) If a request is received for Agency records which exist at two or more Centers, the FOIA Office receiving the request shall undertake to comply with the request, if feasible, or to forward the request (or portions thereof) promptly to a more appropriate Center for processing. The requester shall be kept informed of the actions taken to respond to the request.

(c) If a request is received by a NASA FOIA Office for a record of another agency, the requester shall promptly be informed of that fact, and the request shall be returned to the requester, with advice as to where the request should be directed.

§ 1206.605 Appeals.

(a) A member of the public who has requested an Agency record in accordance with § 1206.601 or § 1206.602, and who has received an initial determination which does not comply fully with the request, may appeal such an adverse initial determination to the Administrator, or, for records as specified in § 1206.504, to the Inspector General under the procedures of this section.

(b) The Appeal must:

(1) Be in writing;

(2) Be addressed to the Administrator, NASA Headquarters, Washington, DC 20546, or, for records as specified in § 1206.504, to the Inspector General, NASA Headquarters, Washington, DC 20546;